

*When you read any of my works, you will need to have read both *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith and *The 48 Laws of Power* by Robert Greene to understand the messages that follow. Also, a reminder that the definition of youth used here is people under the age of majority. In the US, that's people ages 0–17.

*You might also want to read *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*, by Robert Cialdini; *Our Masters' Voices: The Language and Body-language of Politics*, by Max Atkinson; and *Power: Why Some People Have It and Others Don't*, by Jeffrey Pfeffer. These books will help you gain a deeper understanding of Youth Liberation and how parents oppress their kids. These books will also be instrumental in helping you come up with strategies to avoid getting hurt by your parents, band together against the school system, and organize and protest safely and effectively.

*Why not remix, reproduce, and redistribute this zine? Add drawings and images, highlight and bold sections that you like, and generally make it more inviting to read! I give you my permission; just make sure to include that it was originally by Liberationist111 and the words "the copyright license for this work is Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International."

Co-Option and the Power of Youth

Youth slavery has been a part of civilization since farming was invented 12,000 years ago. The first recorded civilizations enslaved their youth, and all throughout history, youth have been enslaved as the property of their parents. While many other forms of slavery have been abolished, such as serfdom, concubines, and eunuchs, youth slavery is a global practice, and adults and parents are even growing in their convictions about how good it is. Youth are the chattel of their parents, their legally defined personal property, and are slaves not only as property but also as forced laborers in schools (and many other places). Yet only a few lone adults care to highlight this issue; the vast majority instead lie and say that slavery has been abolished, even though the 2.1 billion kids around the world are still chattel. Every year, new restrictions (like child labor laws that ban kids under a certain age from working, limit the number of hours older kids can work, and allow employers to pay them less than the amount that adults get paid) are passed into law to make youth more obedient. Because of these restrictions and youth slave runaway laws, there is no underground railroad (yet) for youth, and the only release available is the struggle for freedom. Nowadays, those who think that youth have the right not to be slaves (aka the right to be freedpeople) are few and far between among adults and nonexistent among parent-slavers.

There is only one group who will fight for the rights of youth everywhere, and that's youth. Youth make up 2.1 billion of the world's population, and that huge number could be an incredibly large force dedicated to a single cause: freedom. Many youth liberationists are worried that without adults on their side, they can't win. However, youth are so numerous that they don't need adults to win political battles, not now or ever. Youth are also politically important as they are not easily replaced and will be the new backbone of society and the economy, and so political parties cannot afford to carry out the large-scale genocide and crippling necessary to stop a united

youth liberationist movement. This means that youth have leverage and have a certain amount of leeway in pursuing their freedom that other political groups can't get. When used strategically, this leverage can be used to force anti-youth governments to pass effective pro-youth laws. The political power youth can exert is large, and this political power will grow every time we repeal slave laws, age restrictions, and other anti-youth laws. Every time youth protest and secure the repeal of an anti-youth law, they grow stronger. In time, youth voters could decide elections and be powerful players in determining the culture, laws, and structure of society. Parents fear youth because of this power, because youth have a common set of interests and have the potential to overturn their bigoted and slave-owning ways. The idea of a parent-child relationship where the parent does not exploit their kid is terrifying to them. They reserve the human right to autonomy exclusively for themselves, so the idea of a world where kids do whatever they want is terrifying to them.

Youth liberationists cannot rely on adult participation in youth liberation, nor can they afford to grant adults important positions in the movement. This is because even though adults can be awesome people, their political interests are often against youth. Parent participation in the movement can never exist and can only be seen as an attempt at co-option, since, as their slave owners, parents are the political enemies of youth. Youth liberationists should remember that the youth liberation movement is a movement of youth, not adults, and might want to completely refuse political "support" offered by any and all political parties that do not allow all youth ages 0–17 to vote. Political parties will aim to co-opt the movement and will use their superior political experience to beat youth if they are let into the movement. No political party today is a friend of youth liberation because there is no country on earth (yet) that allows all youth ages 0–17 to vote. If they want the support of the youth liberationist movement, then they should act first and give all youth ages 0–17 the right to vote. Only then can they be considered friends of youth liberation.

It's Okay to be Angry

One thing that a lot of youth struggle with is their anger. More specifically, the ability to feel angry in response to abuse and to come to terms with the fact that it's okay to be angry. Parents often tell us to suppress our anger because it's "unhealthy" or "never to act out of anger." At least part of the motivation behind that is good, because acting out of anger can be bad when it hurts other people. In that sense, we shouldn't act out of anger in order to hurt other people. However, anger is important, and the idea that we shouldn't act out of anger or that it is unhealthy is just plain wrong. Anger helps us stand up against injustice, and there is a reason that we are wired so that anger affects our actions.

Anger helps us tell our parents that it's not okay to order us around; it helps us stand up for ourselves and say that it's our life and what we want comes first. If that means that we have to shout, curse, or hurl insults, so be it. One thing that is true of oppressors that isn't true of the oppressed is that oppressors commonly don't feel anger when they oppress others. Instead, they feel little because they are too busy reaping their feeling of power over others. For

example, if all parents went around red-faced and spitting mad all day, everyone would notice. Some oppressors may have personal reasons for keeping others down, and so they may act out of anger, but most are just doing evil things, and there isn't any psychology behind it. Demonizing anger as the culprit behind oppression ignores the fact that anger has almost nothing to do with the actions of parent-slavers. It's direct power over others that motivates their actions.

For youth, on the other hand, anger is very important because it is the soul of resistance. Getting angry about being denied human rights leads to protests and organizing. Being indignant and frustrated leads to calling out and documenting the horrific ways in which parents hurt their kids. Anger is the motivation and fuel of political organizing, protests, and writing. So you're feeling angry. That's wonderful. You don't need to hide away your anger as if it's some dark part of you; anger is healthy and, just like all of your other emotions, is part of who you are.

How to be a Youth Liberationist Friend

One important part of being a youth liberationist friend is making sure that your friend knows that they are not alone. A lot of youth don't realize that what is happening to them isn't only happening to them. Parents abuse kids everywhere, and not a single kid can fully escape from that. The idea that they're alone prevents them from writing about it, organizing with other kids to do something about it, and individually taking steps to avoid the abuse. No matter how unique or specific the abuse is, there is always another youth who is experiencing the same thing.

A second important part of being a youth liberationist friend is to make sure that your friend knows that their emotions are justified. It's okay to feel angry that your parents treat you badly. It's okay to feel scared of what your parents will do to you next. It's okay to feel miserable when your parents are forcing you to do things you don't want to do. All these emotions are justified and valid, and it's important to let your friend know that "you're absolutely justified in feeling that" and that "you're totally in the right."

A third important part of being a youth liberationist friend is to make sure that your friend knows you believe them. Adults almost never believe kids when they say their parents are hurting them. Parents will kick their little girl out of the house, and the parents will call the police and say that she ran away and that she broke their hearts by leaving, ensuring that she neither gets let back into the house nor can get into a youth shelter. She may even get arrested for running away. When she reports them for doing this, people will call her a liar and label her emotionally abusive towards her parents. Parents will repeatedly rape their little boy while spreading the idea that he is mentally ill and has strange fantasies. When he reports his parents and tries to get help, all the churchgoers will call him a liar, demonic, and mentally ill. Parents will force their daughter to work long hours of manual labor rearranging furniture in the middle of the night so that there is no footage, and when she reports them to the police, all the people in the neighborhood will claim that she's lying and that they "need to hear both sides of the story" (so that they can find a reason to decide that it's not their problem). The way parents oppress kids is

always strange, unique, and limited only by their imaginations. What seems unbelievable to one person is reality for another, so don't discriminate against kids just because their parents are cruel and have overactive imaginations. When another kid tells you that their parents are doing something unbelievable to them, letting them know that you believe them is very important. Nine times out of ten, their parents really did do that unbelievable thing to them. Believe all kids!